

Minutes of Special and Regular Meeting of April 8, 2014
One Twin Pines Lane

CONVENE CLOSED SESSION 6:00 P.M.

- A. Conference with Labor Negotiator, Greg Scoles, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6: BPOA (Belmont Police Officers Association)

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Reed, Braunstein, Stone, Lieberman

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Scoles, City Attorney Rennie, Human Resources Director Dino, Finance Director Fil, Police Chief DeSmidt, Negotiator Doughty. City Clerk Cook was excused from attending.

RECESS at this time, being 6:30 p.m.

CONVENE STUDY SESSION 6:35 P.M. (Emergency Operations Center)

Update on the Ralston Avenue Corridor Study and Discussion and Direction Regarding the Draft Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Concepts

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Reed, Braunstein, Stone, Lieberman

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Scoles, City Attorney Rennie, Public Works Director Oskoui, Community Development Director de Melo, City Engineer Alvarez, Assistant City Engineer Palatnik, Finance Director Fil, City Treasurer Violet, City Clerk Cook.

Public Works Director Oskoui stated that the purpose of the Ralston Corridor Study was to improve multi-modal transportation on Ralston Avenue. He described the public outreach that has been done to date.

Mark Spencer, Consultant, provided an overview of the process for the corridor study and the public outreach that has been performed to date. He noted this is a community-driven plan. He outlined vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian volumes, as well as collision data. He described the four segments of the study, some of the suggested options, and the associated costs for implementing solutions in each segment.

Mr. Spencer indicated that the overarching goal is safety.

Discussion ensued regarding speed limits on Ralston Avenue, and other traffic calming measures that could be implemented. Discussion also ensued regarding providing for a continuous bike lanes or redirecting bicycles off Ralston in certain areas. Discussion also ensued regarding the level of public outreach.

Councilmember Braunstein expressed support for more public outreach. He indicated that the strength of any plan is based on input.

Councilmember Reed stated that the plan is balanced.

Mayor Lieberman suggested prioritizing the recommendations and providing information on how to phase them in. He noted that the proposed bike lane through Twin Pines Park needs to be addressed.

Council concurred to take public comment during the Public Comment portion of the Regular Meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER 7:40 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Reed, Braunstein, Stone, Lieberman

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Scoles, City Attorney Rennie, Public Works Director Oskoui, Community Development Director de Melo, Parks and Recreation Director Gervais, Deputy Fire Chief Keefe, Finance Director Fil, Assistant Finance Director Lazzari, City Treasurer Violet, City Clerk Cook.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Finance Director Fil.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Rennie indicated that a Closed Session was held and there was no reportable action.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Huan Pham, Kevin Sullivan, Emma Shlaes, Henry Roth, Andrew Boone, Valerie Dohrenwend, Brian Leckey, Paul Wendt and Russ Bentsen spoke regarding the Ralston Avenue Corridor Study.

Linda Allen spoke regarding rent control.

Birgit Merian spoke regarding the pending appeal by AT&T for a wireless installation at 1999 Notre Dame Avenue.

Perry Kennan spoke regarding the initiation of bike sharing program.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Stone described a bike ride that he and Councilmember Braunstein took on Ralston Avenue in advance of and in preparation for tonight's discussion on the Ralston Corridor study.

Councilmember Braunstein expressed the need for Councilmembers to acknowledge each other's accomplishments. He congratulated Councilmember Stone for participating in Principal for a Day at Cipriani School.

Mayor Lieberman made announcements regarding the new Belmont history book signing event, the next Firehouse Square meeting, the upcoming Egg Hunt, and activities for Earth Day.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

City Clerk Cook noted that the Special Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2014 were listed on the agenda for approval but were not included in the packet. She indicated these would be forwarded to Council on the next agenda.

Mayor Lieberman noted that the Public Hearing on the Talbryn Drive matter was going to be continued to April 22nd. He suggested moving that item up on the agenda in order to accommodate any public comments. He also recommended moving the action to appoint a new Councilmember to be heard following the Talbryn matter. Council concurred.

City Clerk Cook noted that a member of the public requested to speak regarding the Consent Agenda Item approving the purchase of waste collection enclosures.

ITEMS APPROVED CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes of Special City Council Meetings of February 27, 2014, and March 18, 2014

Resolution 2014-053 of the City Council Authorizing the Use of the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) Procurement Contract for the Acquisition of a New Elgin Street Sweeper for a Total Amount not to Exceed \$285,000

Resolution 2014-054 of the City Council Authorizing the Installation of Security Lights to the Canopy Area at the City's Corporation Yard in an Amount Not to Exceed 12,000

Resolution 2014-055 of the City Council and an Ordinance of the Board of Directors of the Fire Protection District Modifying the Regular Meeting Schedule

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Stone, seconded by Councilmember Braunstein, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved, as amended.

Mayor Lieberman suggested that the style of City Council meeting minutes be briefer, especially those that are televised. He indicated that details can be obtained by watching the video. Council concurred.

ITEM REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

Resolution of the City Council Authorizing the Purchase of Waste Collection Enclosures for City Parks and Athletic Fields in an Amount not to Exceed \$45,000

Karl Mittelstadt, Parks and Recreation Commissioner, stated that this matter was not discussed by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais indicated that he previously shared a newspaper article

regarding this topic with the Commissioners who expressed no concerns. He indicated that the majority of funds would be from a grant, which needs to be spent by July. He recommended a parallel process that if there is a desire to have the Commission review this matter.

Councilmember Braunstein stated that it is not unusual for C/CAG to extend grant deadlines. He pointed out that this is not the first time that concerns have been raised regarding grants and the timing of when they are presented to the Council for approval. He indicated that he heard from two Commissioners with concerns regarding the current proposal. He stated that he could approve the grant application but he expressed support in having the Parks and Recreation Commission review this matter.

Discussion ensued regarding the roles and responsibilities of commissions. Council concurred with the need for a future discussion on this topic.

ACTION: Councilmember Braunstein made a motion to approve the resolution and to refer the matter to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review and approval. This motion died for lack of a second.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Stone, seconded by Councilmember Reed, Resolution 2014-056 of the City Council Authorizing the Purchase of Waste Collection Enclosures for City Parks and Athletic Fields in an Amount not to Exceed \$45,000 was approved (3-1, Braunstein no), said motion to include an informational report to the City Council outlining the Parks and Recreation Commission's future discussion on this topic.

HEARINGS

Public Hearing to Consider a Street Vacation, Four-Lot Single Family Residential Parcel Map, and Environmental Assessment for Property located at 1320 Talbryn Drive

Mayor Lieberman indicated that this matter would be continued to April 22, 2014, and the City Council did not receive any background material regarding this matter.

David Kramer, Elaine Patterson, Steve Braat, Alvin Richards, Patti Smith, Anne Moltochanoff, and Paul Wendt spoke regarding this project.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Reed, seconded by Councilmember Stone, this Public Hearing was unanimously continued to April 22, 2014

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, AND COUNCIL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ASSIGNMENT UPDATES, AND STAFF ITEMS

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Belmont Appointing a Resident to the City Council to Fill a Vacancy in a Term Expiring After the November 2015 General Election (item taken out of order)

Councilmember Braunstein stated candidate Cathy Wright has a background in public office, has dealt with constituents, adoption of a public budget, and has other perspectives to bring to the table.

Councilmember Reed stated that he was seeking an independent thinker. He pointed out that Ms. Wright has more experience as an elected official than most of the City Council. She has had to deal with angry constituents.

Councilmember Stone concurred, and pointed out her experience with public employees, labor groups, and infrastructure.

Mayor Lieberman stated that he could have supported four of the five candidates that were interviewed, and that three of them stood out, Ms. Wright being one of them. He noted that he served with her as part of the City/school district 2+2 committee. He expressed a desire to choose someone who can best represent the interests of Belmont.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Braunstein, seconded by Councilmember Stone, Resolution 2014-057 Appointing Cathy Wright to a vacant term on the City Council that expires in November of 2015 was unanimously approved.

RECESS: 9:10 P.M.

RECONVENE: 9:20 P.M.

OTHER BUSINESS

Budget Strategic Planning for FY 2015

Finance Director Fil indicated that this item is the first step in process for the next year's budget. He provided a recap of the current year budget and indicated that revenues and expenditures were on track. He reviewed factors that would be used to develop the new budget, and recapped the City Council's priorities as discussed at the March 28th workshop. He described the deferred capital needs, and pointed out that the ad hoc infrastructure committee was continuing its efforts regarding this. He outlined options on how to address the gap in funding for asset management.

Councilmember Reed expressed support for additional staffing for the Community Development Department and a desire to fully fund the Davey Glen Park development.

Finance Director Fil stated that the Community Development Department's staffing can be augmented with consultants as needed. He noted that new park development funds or an advance from Quimby Act funds could address the Davey Glen Park funding.

Discussion ensued regarding the Davey Glen Park development. Mayor Lieberman suggested allocating some of the monies from the San Juan sale to augment funding for Davey Glen. Council concurred to consider this option if funds are needed.

Perry Kennan spoke regarding difficulties in analyzing data from the budget document, as well as the need to update the General Plan and to seek new revenue sources such as an increase in the hotel tax.

Discussion ensued and Council concurred to revisit the transit occupancy tax (TOT) and directed staff to provide further analysis regarding funding options for the completion of Davey Glen Park.

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, AND COUNCIL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ASSIGNMENT UPDATES, AND STAFF ITEMS (continued)

Verbal report from Councilmembers on Intergovernmental (IGR) and Subcommittee Assignments

Councilmember Stone described a mock meeting he facilitated with second graders from Nesbit School.

Verbal Report from City Manager

City Manager Scoles reported on the Firehouse Square workshop, the City Council's March 28th priorities workshop, the rollout of the new website, and the receipt of a \$150,000 grant for pedestrian and bicycle improvements on Notre Dame Avenue.

Ralston Avenue Corridor Study and Discussion and Direction Regarding the Draft Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Concepts (continued)

Mayor Lieberman suggested additional outreach to Notre Dame de Namur University as a major stakeholder. He also suggested addressing the speed limit on upper Ralston Avenue and the addition of school signs.

Public Works Director Oskoui indicated that these issues can be addressed outside of the scope of the Corridor Study.

Councilmember Reed suggested prioritizing components of the plan.

Councilmember Stone expressed support for improving signage, especially for bicyclists. He noted that a comprehensive plan would be needed to be able to take advantage of grants and other sources of funding.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 10:20 p.m.

**Terri Cook
City Clerk**

Meeting audio-recorded and videotaped